

Highgate Cemetery at a crossroads

There were 340 respondents. Not all respondents answered all questions. Numbers are the percentage of responses. Due to rounding the total may not equal 100%.

We would like to hear your views so that we can take them into account when planning for the future of Highgate Cemetery.

Questions with circles: tick only one answer

Questions with squares: tick all that apply

Where there is a range of five choices, the two either side of the centre have been added together to provide a clearer indication of the overall view.

Trees and ecology

Our trees are out of control. What should be done with them?

1. Should we restore some of the lost vistas and views?

Not important 13 14 73 Very important

2. Should areas around historic trees be cleared to safeguard their vitality?

Not important 8 17 76 Very important

3. Should we introduce a greater variety of shrubs and trees?

Not important 37 29 34 Very important

4. Should trees harming graves be removed where appropriate?

Not important 8 13 79 Very important

5. Should parts of the Cemetery be managed to encourage a greater variety of wildlife?

Not important 17 21 63 Very important

6. Do you have any comments on trees and ecology?

Burials

Can ways be found to continue to provide a place of burial at Highgate Cemetery, or must the Cemetery rely on income from tourists?

7. How important do you think it is for Highgate Cemetery to remain open for burials?

Not important 11 14 76 Very important

8. Where should the focus lie in our future activities?

Tourism 29 52 19 Burials

9. When Highgate Cemetery is full, what should happen to it?

- 4 It should be allowed to become overgrown and revert to nature
- 58 It should be kept in use as a cemetery by allowing abandoned graves to be used by new families
- 69 It can survive as it has by charging for visits and guided tours, and by fundraising
- Other:

10. In some cemeteries, grave spaces are re-used after a certain period of time. Would you consider it acceptable for Highgate Cemetery to re-use long abandoned graves?

Unacceptable 20 12 69 Acceptable

11. What do you think might be a respectable time lapse before an abandoned grave could be used for new burials by a different family? (Choose one)

50 years 14 75 years 16 100 years 55 Never 15

12. If a system of grave re-use was introduced, would you find it acceptable if...

- 51 land on top of graves was used for cremations urns which could be leased for a set period of time?
- 63 spaces within existing vaults or graves were used, filling them up?
- 64 existing remains were buried even deeper in the old grave, creating space on top?
- 25 existing remains were gathered together and placed in a grave nearby, creating a row of new graves?
- 21 existing remains were cremated and buried elsewhere in the cemetery?
- 11 Graves should never be re-used under any circumstances

13. If abandoned graves were to be re-used over time, what should happen to the old headstone, if there is one?

- 43 It could be re-used, perhaps by turning it around with a new inscription on the reverse
- 51 It could be re-sited near the grave
- 49 It could be moved elsewhere in the cemetery where it could still be seen
- 18 It could be removed altogether, provided a photographic record was made
- 14 Graves should not be disturbed under any circumstances

14. Do you have any comments on burial activities?

Providing for visitors and grave owners

Visitor numbers are increasing. How can we achieve the right balance between modern cemetery and visitor attraction?

15. Would a cafe be useful for visitors and grave owners?

Not important 25 20 55 Very important

16. Would an area for funeral receptions be useful?

Not important 21 25 54 Very important

17. Would the shop be better kept outside the chapel?

Not important 31 21 48 Very important

18. Would a museum or display enrich the experience of visitors?

Not important 10 14 76 Very important

19. Would a classroom make the Cemetery more suitable for school groups?

Not important 31 27 43 Very important

20. Are more signs needed in the Cemetery to help people find their way around?

Not important 37 25 38 Very important

21. Should we provide additional shelter for visitors in wet weather?

Not important 43 27 30 Very important

22. Should we provide more benches for visitors in the East Cemetery?

Not important 21 31 49 Very important

23. What else would improve things for grave owners and visitors?

And your final thoughts...

24. What makes Highgate Cemetery special for you?

25. Are you a ... (tick all which apply)

- 20 Grave owner 25 Friend 22 Volunteer
23 Local resident 23 First time visitor 30 Repeat visitor

26. Please tell us your age

- 3 18 - 24 11 25 - 34 14 35 - 44
20 45 - 54 24 55 - 64 21 65 - 74 7 75 +

27. Your UK postcode or country of residence

Count: Local 76 / London 111 / UK 85 / Europe 16 / Rest 20

**Thanks for your help. Please return this questionnaire to
Highgate Cemetery, Swain's Lane, London N6 6PJ.
You can also complete it on-line at highgatecemetery.org/news**